

# MONTEREY COUNTY LABOR NEWS

VOL. XI—NO. 32

SALINAS, CALIF., TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1949

WHOLE NO. 548

## T-H Kills Unfair List

Washington.—Organized labor is finding out almost daily just how bad the Taft-Hartley law really is.

The latest demonstration was provided by a ruling of the National Labor Relations Board, under the law's provision which bans secondary boycotts, to the effect that "unfair lists" maintained by AFL building trades councils in nearly every city are illegal.

A majority of the board held that the vicious anti-labor law could be construed to put a stop to the preparation and use of the "unfair lists" which have become a tradition with AFL building trades unions and central labor bodies.

Disagreeing sharply with the view of the majority was NLRB member John M. Houston, who charged that the board's ruling "seems to me a dangerous and unnecessary curtailment of rights." In a dissent filed in the case, Mr. Houston declared:

"If an unfair list cannot claim protection under Section 8(c), neither can any other form or means of propaganda which a union may wish to use to publicize its views as to its relations with management and unions are enjoined to silence to a degree which seriously imperils their ability to engage in any concerted activity at all."

The board's decision ordered the Grand Rapids, Mich., Building and Construction Trades Council and the Bricklayers' Union to stop inducing employees of the Grand Rapids Tile and Mosaic Company not to work on material of the Osternick Construction Company by maintaining the Osternick Company on an unfair list.

In an earlier case the board voted 3 to 2 that an unfair list maintained by a single union, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, violated the Taft-Hartley law's secondary boycott ban. The recent ruling extended that decision to include unfair lists maintained by central councils.

The interpretation of the law, as handed down by the board, threw out the ruling of NLRB Trial Examiner William F. Schanikoff that the unfair list did not violate the Taft-Hartley law because it was originated before any specific law forbade such a list. The board's majority said they agreed that there could have been no violation by use of the list before passage of the restrictive labor legislation.

## Blacksmiths Join Label Trades

I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer, Union Label Trades Department, announced this week that the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers and Helpers has recently become affiliated with that Department of the American Federation of Labor.

There are now 55 national and international AFL unions affiliated with the Department, which publishes 74 union labels, shop cards and service buttons of these various affiliates.

"The use of official insignia to designate the products and services of respective unions of the American Federation of Labor is growing and becoming more popular every day," said Mr. Ornburn, "and I believe it is due to the fact that there is an increasing demand not only by American consumers for Union Label goods and Union services, but also because manufacturers who have collective bargaining agreements with AFL unions are coming to realize the full benefit of displaying the Union Label on their products. Other industries designate their services by the Shop Card or Union Button. I believe that those manufacturers and other employers who recognize the Union Label as a valuable asset to business are worthy of the full patronage of all members of labor unions, women's auxiliaries and their friends throughout America."

## Southern Editors Plan Permanent Organization

Miami.—Editors of bona fide Southern labor papers formed a temporary organization with Stanton Dunn, editor of the Mobile Labor Journal, named as chairman, and L. B. Stanford, editor of the Southern Teamster, Atlanta, secretary. The meeting was attended by editors of labor papers east of the Mississippi River.

A permanent Southern labor press organization is slated to be set up at a meeting in Atlanta on March 26 and 27. The bona fide labor press of the entire Southern territory has been invited to the Atlanta gathering.

## S. F. Food Prices Remain High

After a break in January, when the level of food prices in San Francisco moved up from December levels, the mid-February consumers' price index of food swung downward again. Max D. Kosoris, regional director, Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor, reports that the February food index of 219.3 is down 1.7 per cent from the January index of 223.2, and is back to about the same level it occupied in April of last year. The new February level, however, is still 1.8 per cent above that of February a year ago.

The downward trend from the preceding January levels is the composite result of divergent price moves for the various items which comprise the index. Primarily responsible for the decrease was a reduction of 4.7 per cent in the price of meats, with prices for beef and veal down by as much as 6.5 per cent. Pork was off by 4.2 per cent, and chicken prices dropped drastically, by 12 per cent.

Eggs also had a marked decrease from mid-February price levels, 18 per cent, selling for an average price of about 65 cents. The decrease for fats and oils prices was 5.9 per cent, and for cereals and bakery products, 0.8 per cent.

Moving up were prices of fruits and vegetables for an average increase of 5.8 per cent. The fresh varieties were up by as much as 7.5 per cent. Canned foods prices, on the other hand, showed a reduction, 3.7 per cent from the January levels.

The price level of dairy products was up 0.3 per cent, but beverage prices remained unchanged.

The reduction of 1.7 per cent in the level of food prices in San Francisco compares with a reduction of 2.5 per cent for the U. S. as a whole. The national index of 19.7 is below that of 219.2 for San Francisco, indicating that the rise in food prices in the bay city since the base period of 1935-39 has been sharper than for the country generally.

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## 9,000 Hit by Express Lockout

New York.—A lockout of 9,000 workers employed by the Railway Express Agency was in full force here March 14, with its effects expected to spread throughout the nation.

Some 5,700 package loaders, sorters and office workers affiliated with the Bro. of Railway Clerks-AFL officially lost their jobs when "job abolition" notices issued March 10 became effective. Also affected by the agency's lockout were 3,300 members of the Intl. Bro. of Teamsters-AFL, who are not directly involved in the dispute.

Union spokesmen denounced the agency's lockout and freight embargo actions as designed "to further delay and hinder final settlement of the wage and scale dispute."

Railway Express has been accused of stalling since April 1948 on union demands for a 40-hour week with Saturday and Sunday off consecutively. The union also is seeking a 25c hourly wage boost but the major issue is reduction of the workweek from the present 44-hour schedule. The long overdue wage increase would bring the workers up to the third round.

The agency has offered a 7c hourly wage boost and a "staggered" workweek of 40 hours. Vice Chairman J. P. Dolan of the local BRC express division said this proposal "would push the union back about 10 years," since it would mean the elimination of present time-and-a-half pay for Sundays.

## Electrical Workers Win Carolina Power Election

Asheville, N. C.—The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 907 won a hotly contested NLRB election among the employees of the Carolina power and Light Co., Western Division, with headquarters in this city.

Local 907 has held the bargaining rights since 1938, renewing its contract periodically from that time. After passage of the Taft-Hartley Law the company challenged the local's right to represent its employees as well as the right of the local to represent the working foremen in its service groups to the power lines. The company petitioned the NLRB for an election and the IBEW won the test overwhelmingly.

Nitrate fertilizers are needed for plant growth and must be supplied for good crops because all normal nitrates are soluble in water and those in the soil quickly leach away.

MONTEREY COUNTY

LABOR NEWS

## Building Trades Wages Small Factor in High Home Costs

Washington.—The price of land, building materials costs, and high financing charges are the prime factors in the high cost of homebuilding, the AFL's United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners charged in an article appearing in the Carpenter, union's official magazine.

The article effectively debunks the ridiculous argument that wages of building tradesmen alone have boosted the prices of new homes to their dizzy heights, and points out that even a 25 percent cut in those wages would make little difference in the selling price of a house.

To back up this statement the union presents a survey of 3 homes constructed in the San Francisco area to sell for \$12,000 each. The labor cost on each was \$1,829.15, or 16 percent of the selling price.

The article said:

"We are not charging that there is any profiteering or price gouging anywhere in particular along the line in house building. But we are saying that labor costs have added least to the inflation in the home market. After all, even old houses today are selling for twice and three times what they cost to build.

"Cheap houses can and must come. But they will never come so long as the \$300 pre-war lot is selling for \$1,000, or while lumber is 300 percent above pre-war prices, or while fixtures alone cost more than the whole pre-war bathroom did.

"Construction wages have increased. But they have not increased nearly as fast as prices have. In terms of real wages, building tradesmen have hardly held their own. Furthermore, construction wages have increased more slowly than wages in practically any other industry.

"The challenge can be met, but it can never be met by criticism, recriminations and blasts against building trades workers for they, of all groups connected with construction, have profited least, and contributed least to inflation.

In the pre-war era, the union estimates, 24 to 30 percent of the cost of an average dwelling went for direct labor, and it points out that in view of the skyrocketing which building materials prices did during the last few years as compared to wages, it is only proper to assume that the percentage of direct labor costs has decreased."

"However," the union adds, "even assuming the ratio remained the same, there are some other vital facts which must be taken into consideration. Few people are in the position to buy a home for cash. Four out of five must finance, and financing means financing charges.

"Under the most liberal FHA program in effect before the war, finance and interest charges on a \$5,000 dwelling amounted to more than \$3,100 before the home was paid for. At a ratio of 30 percent for direct labor costs, the on-site labor charges on the \$5,000 home amounted to only \$1,500. In other words, finance charges cost twice as much as labor costs.

"Other factors entered into the price a buyer had to pay for a home before it finally became his on an FHA plan. Taxes, insurance and upkeep over the life of the FHA plan ran around \$2,500. In fact, the AFL statistical department has figured out that the buyer of the \$5,000 home under the above plan paid out better than \$14,000 before he finally got the deed. Of the final price, only some think 10 percent went to the workers who put the house up with their tools and skills.

"In view of the fact that wages have increased less than almost any other thing that goes into a home, it is only reasonable to assume that the picture has changed little since 1941. Labor still gets only a small percentage of the ultimate price a home buyer pays under a mortgage plan. How, then, can any appreciable reduction in home prices be instituted by reducing building trades wages? The answer is that they cannot be."

The union points out that the average brokerage fee of a real estate agent is 5 percent, and that if a house is sold twice the real estate brokers receive roughly as big a share as the building tradesmen who put it up.

"Is any one suggesting," the union asks, "that the answer to low cost housing is lower real estate brokerage fees? No. Yet it would be just as logical to suggest that the way to bring down prices is by cutting building trades wages."

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From railroad clerk to telephone lineman, to railroad telegrapher, and finally to dispatcher, "Mac" gave his all to the labor movement, serving at one time as general chairman for the ATDA on the Seaboard Air Line in Florida.

While on leave of absence from Seaboard in 1921, Bro. McDonald traveled to Russia on one of the many technical missions organized by the United States at that time, setting up the management of an entire section of economy in Kamykovo, Siberia, including coal mining, agriculture and logging. Before returning to his railroad job in Florida, he established the ATDA system on the Moscow Railroad.

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He was forced to retire in 1941 because of ill health brought on by overwork, and at that time started ranching in Aptos, Santa Cruz County. During World War II the need for trained dispatchers was so critical that Bro. McDonald decided he should offer his services to the transportation system again, and carried on as dispatcher for the Santa Fe until repeated heart attacks forced his retirement.

Since then he has been running an apple and almond ranch in Aptos. A member of the Valencia Farm Center, he has retained his membership in both the Order of Railroad Telegraphers and the American Train Dispatchers Association. He leaves his wife, Grace McDonald, editor of the California Farm Reporter; two sons, both teachers, Bruce, in the Burlingame Elementary Schools, and Wallace, who teaches at Tamalpais High, and a daughter, Jan McDonald Howard, student at UCLA.

## J. E. McDONALD, PIONEER LABOR EDITOR, PASSES

Joseph Edmund ("Mac") McDonald, managing editor of California labor papers in the late 1930's and prominent figure in labor circles throughout the nation, passed away at noon Monday at Community Service Hospital in San Jose following a prolonged illness.

Bro. McDonald was widely known as a labor paper editor and for his work which resulted in the permanent tobacco workers union in Florida. He returned to railroading during the last war until he suffered a severe heart attack and was forced to retire. He was 61 years of age.

After leaving the labor press field and before returning four years ago as train dispatcher for the Santa Fe in Fresno, Bro. McDonald organized the American Train Dispatchers Association and that line, the last major system to give train dispatchers representation and security.

Born in Pocahontas, Virginia, Bro. McDonald later moved to Montana and began his career as a coal miner at the age of 14. Two years later he was supporting his entire family as a miner and was a "griever" for the United Mine Workers Union.

Known affectionately as "Mac," he worked his way to leadership in union after union, shifting to railroading at the age of 18 when he became ticket agent in the mid-west. At the same time he homesteaded in Montana, starting his life-long interest in farming.

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## Fishing Hit By Proposed Legislation

Monterey Fish Cannery Workers Union officials have been traveling to Sacramento during the current legislature session to protest vigorously against bills designed to set the sardine fishing and cannery season from April 15 to February 15 and to eliminate entirely any "summer pack."

The bill has been approved by committee and referred to the Assembly for action despite protests of northern California fishing and fish cannery interests. Assemblyman Vincent Thomas of San Pedro, where there is no summer activity in sardines, authored the measure.

Meanwhile, the California Division of Fish and Game has opened an intensive two-year survey which is hoped to determine facts regarding the decline of food sardines in California waters. A comprehensive research is planned, at a cost of about a million dollars.

## In Union Circles

Carl Lara, business representative for Painters Union 1104 and Salinas Electrical Workers Union 243, was called to San Francisco last Friday on business for the Electrical Workers.

New telephone number of Carpenters Union 925 of Salinas is Salinas 9293. The number was changed to give better service to members.

Engineers Union 3 has closed its office in Monterey County and Business Agent M. G. Murphy has been returned to San Jose where he will handle affairs of the union for that area and this. He has a new assistant, Joe Riley.

## They Color Butter But Not Oleo!

California housewives still will be buying their oleomargarine uncolored, according to the chairman of the Livestock and Dairies Committee, Assemblyman James Silliman (R., Salinas)—that is, if he has his way. He said he was willing to predict no colored margarine will get by his group.

Who is this group? That is easy to figure out. It is a country-dominated Assembly committee and a "cow country" Senate committee.

California consumers want oleomargarine colored and ready to use when it comes from the store. Dairy interests find it advantageous to color butter to make it more appealing to the consumer, but of all things, the dairy-interests-dominated committee refuse to even give the legislative body as a whole a chance to vote on it.

This is a concrete example showing why the reapportionment bill which came up for vote at the last election should have been passed by the consuming public (union cooperation could have passed it), then the hundreds of families who want colored margarine could have their say. They know their representatives would not let them down. Now a few of the dairy farmers, representing a powerful dairy lobby, say in so many words "It shall not pass."

Write to your State Senator and Assemblyman today!

## More Holidays Are Wanted

Cleveland.—FDR is still the ranking favorite among working people.

Cleveland employers report

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## HIGH TIME LABOR WOKE UP

From all parts of the United States come reports that labor is awakening to the fact that unless it learns to use its political power more intelligently in the future than has been done in the past, our entire organized labor movement is in grave danger of being outlawed and wiped out of existence.

When the men and women of labor everywhere in our land recognize that everything that has been won for labor through trade union activities is now in danger of being outlawed by legislation they are merely facing the realities of the present day.

In our federal government and in many states laws, intended to outlaw and destroy unions, have already been placed on the statute books. Unless this tendency to legislate unions out of existence is stopped and the tide turned in the opposite direction very dark days lie ahead for those who must earn their living by toil.

It is a tragedy that labor has slept so long. Now that workers have started to awaken politically, let it be a thorough awakening. Let not only a few live wires become active in our unions but let the women and all who vote become active units in this general awakening of labor, so that labor hereafter will go to the polls actually knowing what they are voting for and whom they are electing.

## BADLY MUDDLED THINKING

What purports to be a discussion of the merits of the Taft-Hartley law and which is being inflicted on the public by press and radio in heavy doses is in reality nothing more nor less than a smokescreen intended to obscure what actually is involved.

What really enters is that this obnoxious law reeks with fascism from start to finish. It is very correctly called a slave law for the reason that under it working people can be ordered to work against their own volition. Under it injunctions can be invoked to enjoin working people, during labor disputes, from exercising their constitutional rights and labor unions can be fined out of existence as a result of court edicts. There is not a single provision of the Taft-Hartley law that is worth saving. Our country and our labor unions lived and prospered long before we ever had such a law. The sooner it is repealed the better it will be for everybody, since nothing but endless friction and turmoil can result from permitting it to remain in force. The only purpose of all these artfully drafted questions is to muddle people's thinking. This law restores slavery and makes it possible for anti-union judges to become the arbiters of our liberties.

It is not a question of whether this, that or the other statement supposed to be contained in this thoroughly bad law, by itself might look acceptable. The question at issue is the law itself, as a whole, which is unequivocally bad, and for that reason should be repealed.

## PLENTY TALK, LITTLE RESULTS

Our 81st Congress has made a miserably poor start during its first three months of existence. There has been plenty of talk but so inexcusably little action that the members of both houses ought to hang their heads in shame.

Instead of enacting legislation, which the majority of our people have every right to expect, in view of the fact that the political party having majority control in both houses made definite pledges in regard to what would be done, virtually nothing has been done except to talk.

Everybody can concede that a certain amount of speech-making goes with lawmaking, but when such use of free discussion degenerates into mere filibustering and obstructionist tactics that apparently have no other purpose than to prevent enactment of badly needed laws then it is about time that what little brains we have in Congress began to devise ways and means to put an end to such practices.

If the 81st Congress cannot overcome its present obstructionist tendencies the people of this nation better start pretty soon to get ready to administer the greatest housecleaning of our history, when the next Congressional election rolls around.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

"Yes, but what can I do to help labor win the political battles now raging everywhere in the United States?" many men and women are beginning to ask. Now, here are some of the things you can do. You can join a labor league club, when one is formed in your neighborhood. You can see to it that every member of your family is registered in the precinct you are now living. If you move you must re-register to be entitled to vote. All voters can register at the court house of the county in which they live. After your own family has all registered get your friends and neighbors to do likewise. It is registered voters who win elections.

## Your Impatience is Showing, Uncle!



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## Taxes Rob Workers' Buying Power; Big Profits Go Free

Taxes are a heavy drain on the purchasing power of workers and their families. Before the war, the government collected about \$1 billion in individual income taxes. During the 1949 fiscal year, individual income taxes will run over \$19 billion.

It was the workers and other low income groups who bore the brunt of this increased tax burden. Before the war, the groups receiving less than \$5,000 a year paid 10 per cent of total individual income taxes. Now these groups pay over 50 per cent.

In addition to this heavy burden of individual income taxes, workers also carry a heavy load of hidden taxation. In the 1949 fiscal year, federal excise taxes will amount to about \$8 billion. These excise taxes—really sales taxes—cut the purchasing power of workers just when they are being hit by layoffs and part-time employment.

These taxes on consumption rose sharply during the war years. Excise tax collections have increased from \$1.8 billion before the war to around \$8 billion in the 1949 fiscal year. The government now collects 60 per cent more from excise taxes alone than it did from all taxes before the war. And while the excess profits tax was repealed and substantial reductions were made in the income taxes of the middle and top income brackets, excise taxes are still at their peak wartime levels. Not a single cent has been cut from excise taxes.

The government gets away with this unfair tax on consumption, which bears most heavily on low-income families, because so few people realize that they are paying these hidden taxes every day in the week.

**HIDDEN TAXES HEAVY**

Every time a worker buys a pack of cigarettes, he pays an excise tax of seven cents. The tax on a fifth of rye is \$1.44. The tax on a movie ticket is 20 per cent.

If a worker's wife buys a lipstick, the tax is 20 per cent. If she buys baby oil to clean her baby's bottom, the tax is 20 per cent. (By some quirk in the law, baby oil is classified as a luxury cosmetic.)

If the worker's family takes a bus trip to another town, the tax is 20 per cent. The tax on a long distance phone call is 15 to 25 per cent.

The tax on a handbag is 20 per cent. And so on down the line, with scores of items that can be called anything but luxuries. The burden of these hidden taxes is for many low-income families a heavier load than income taxes.

**ONE-FOURTH OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EXCISE TAX COLLECTIONS COME FROM TAXES ON MOVIES, COSMETICS, GASOLINE, CIGARETTES AND PHONE CALLS.** The great bulk of these items are purchased by workers and can hardly be called luxuries. It is therefore a phony argument to contend that excise taxes are imposed only on luxuries.

**CUT HERE, ADD THERE**

Another administration argument is that the government needs the revenues. But the elimination of the most onerous taxes on consumption enacted during the war would reduce revenues by but \$2.5 billion. The government could make up for this reduction, and the reduction of \$5 billion caused by raising the exemption of a family of four to \$4,000, by raising corporation taxes by \$12 billion.

This would leave the government with a net increase of \$4.5 billion in revenues and would leave the corporations with profits after taxes that were twice as high as prewar.

With purchasing power sagging,

## Boss's Duty To Make the Job Safe

Washington.—Top management of an industrial company should accept full responsibility for rendering workplaces and work methods safe, the President's Conference on Industrial Safety was told in a report to its final session March 25. The 3-day conference was attended by some 1,500 delegates.

It adopted a call to action drawn up by a coordinating committee of employer, labor, state government and other delegates which stressed that industrial safety must be a continuing campaign of concern to every responsible agency and group. Main part of the meeting was devoted to hearing reports of technical committees and floor discussion of the reports.

### CORRECT HAZARDS

Among the topics covered by the reports, prepared in advance of the conference, were: analysis of accident records; engineering and safety; laws and regulations; education and labor-management cooperation for safety. The body decided that the President's conference should be continued, that future national meetings should be held, and that followup conferences should be held in the states to further the program adopted in Washington.

The overall tone of the final report showed a healthy regard for the importance of making work places safe, rather than emphasizing appeals to the worker to watch his step around dangerous machinery.

"The first step should be correction of physical hazards followed by periodic inspection of premises and equipment," it said.

### A SAFETY PLEDGE

The report made it plain that management should have a safety policy, that it should make safety instruction of new workers part of the job of foremen, that it should keep accurate and detailed accident records. Unions, the report said, "should maintain safety organizations and, where practicable, safety directors at the international level, and trained representatives at regional, district and local levels. Duty of these officials, it said, would be to conduct safety courses, stimulate safety interest and cooperate with management programs."

The report said the job of the federal government in industrial safety should be advisory, but that "each state should enact a basic safety law authorizing its state labor department to render work places safe and empowering such department to promulgate codes to serve as a foundation for effective safety performance."

### Concession to Labor Won in Idaho Legislature

Boise, Idaho.—The successful political campaign waged in 1948 by the Idaho State Federation of Labor to clean out anti-labor members of the State Legislature has paid off.

The Federation reports that "all in all, labor experienced the best legislative session in the history of our state."

The Idaho Legislature of 1949 started six anti-labor bills, one of which was a duplicate of the Taft-Hartley law, at the request of organized labor.

In addition, labor succeeded in setting up a State Labor Commission, in improving the silicosis-control laws, and in increasing workmen's compensation benefits by 30 per cent.

## GRIN or GROAN

The smart gal doesn't hitch her wagon to a star. She hitches it, and herself, to a guy who works like a horse.

Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow the prunes go up.

Income tax is the fine you pay for reckless thriving.

He found his wife in tears.

"You know that lovely cake I made from mother's recipe," she cried. "Well, I put it out to cool and the cat ate half of it."

"Never mind, dear," he comforted. "I know someone who will give us a kitten."

Phyllis is the one who likes dogs. She told me about a friend walking her dog past a nursery and the proprietor watching their progress with suspicion.

The friend frowned at him and said, "You needn't be so suspicious. My dog won't bite your old flowers."

(On Receiving a 25-Year Service Pin from His Employer)

I've worked a lot of hours here, and now I'd like to mention, instead of this gold service pin, I'd rather have a pension.

I've made a lot of dough for you, and you know that I'm not braggin'.

My hands are sore, my back is broke,

My tired back side's a-draggin'.

You took the sap right out of me, since my body did hire.

And now I'd like a little dough, so that I might retire.

This company is big enough,

Huge profits they receive,

So let the moths out of your purse,

And give a pension, PLEASE.

Tank Fleet Operator: "Why did you leave your last place of employment?"

Pretty young applicant: "I was caught kissing my boss, sir."

T. F. O.: "Harrumph! Can you start in the morning?"

Boss: "This is the end! You're fired!"

Fitter: "Fired! I allus thought slaves was sold!"

First Fitter: "Hey, any of you fellows lost a wrench?"

Second Fitter: "Yes, ma."

First: "What's your name?"

Second: "Mike Connor."

First: "Then it ain't yours. This wrench belongs to Pat. Pending. His name's on it."

The one about the fellow who didn't come home one night and his worried wife wired five of his friends: "Jack hasn't come home. Is he spending the night with you?"

Soon after her husband got home, she received five wires. They all read:

"It's O. K. Jack is spending the night with me."

Everything has its bright side, but it surely is no fun.

To see the shine upon the suit you've worn since forty-one.

My stenographer says a gal wears fashions to make her torso moreso.

Heard about the wife who read the Kinsey Report then shot her husband.

Tom—Was he violent when you told him you wanted to marry his daughter?

Sam—Violent, I should say so. Why, he nearly shook my hand off.

"Fancy, dear," said Mrs. Jones to her husband, "it says here in China a man doesn't know his wife until after the wedding ceremony."

"And why," asked the husband moodily, "is China especially mentioned?"

## Fluorescent Tubes Are Dangerous

Don't touch the inside of a fluorescent light fixture, or breathe the gaseous contents.

The State Department of Public Health warned this week that beryllium compounds used to coat the inside of fluorescent tubes are dangerous either to touch or breathe.

A skin scratch from glass splinters tends to ulcerate, and will not heal unless all chemical particles are removed.

Severe respiratory infection or cough can come from even slight exposure to the beryllium breathed as a vapor or dust. Prolonged or repeated inhalation causes incapacitating and frequently fatal lung disease, according to Dr. Wilson L. Halverson, department director.

"Fluorescent lights are perfectly safe in normal use, but hazardous if they are broken or disposed of carelessly," Dr. Halverson explained.

"If tubes must be broken for disposal, break them outdoors and wear gloves to protect your skin. Never burn fluorescent tubes."

## 'Truman Depression'—?; Fear Sweeps D.C.—No Price Control

Less than half a year ago price control was one of the hottest issues in the country. The election campaign was a strange one. Professional politicians admitted they didn't know exactly what the people were thinking about. But all agreed that the high cost of living was probably the most important single issue.

The turning point, if it comes, is close at hand.

If factory employment goes up this spring, prices might start to climb again. And the price control plans would be dusted off and brought out. If unemployment hangs on and swells further, the idea of price control will get a quiet burial. And we will be back where we were ten years ago, wondering what to do next to create jobs.

The new big business ad campaign to save the Taft-Hartley law and smear as 'socialist' all social legislation," the newsweekly In Fact reported in its March 28 issue, "is being financed, indirectly, by the U.S. Treasury and the general public."

According to tax experts, In Fact, said a loophole in the tax law lets corporations call advertisements "business expense"—although they may be really pure propaganda. As "business expense," the cost is deducted from the profits taxed by the government.

Since the corporate profit tax is 38 per cent, the article said, the U.S. Treasury loses \$3,800 every time a firm spends \$10,000 for a propaganda ad.

"Ultimately, the ordinary taxpayer makes up that lost revenue," In Fact pointed out, "because the government has to get the money elsewhere and individuals have no one to create profitable 'loopholes' for them."

In the next few months, the newsweekly revealed, almost \$760,000 worth of funds "properly belonging to the government" will be spent by the electric power industry to fight a public power program. On March 25, in Chicago, representatives of 25 private power firms met to plan a propaganda program to defeat proposed bills creating public power authorities similar to the TVA.

As evidence of the manner in which business is intensifying its advertising campaign, In Fact cited an article in Editor & Publisher, newspaper trade journal, which said that 10 newspaper ads praising the Taft-Hartley law originally placed by the National Small Businessmen's Association have now "snowballed into more than 100" in 16 days.

**Employment Decline Reported in N. Y. State**

Albany, N. Y.—Manufacturing employment in New York State decreased by approximately 1500 workers

# SALINAS--HOME OF CALIFORNIA RODEO!

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All Caskets with Union Label  
Friendly Service with  
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Free Pickup and Delivery  
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Special herbs prepared for Headache, Dizziness, Sinus, Catarrh, Bronchial Tube, Cough, Arthma, Lungs, Heart, Liver, Kidneys, Nervousness, High or Low Blood Pressure, Sour Heart Burn, Gas, Bad Stomache, Acid Ulcer, Blood Ulcer, Constipation, Eczema, Rheumatism, Neuritis, Prostate-gland or Female Trouble, Backache, Bladder, Leg, Knee, Feet pain or swelling, and all other ailments. Our herb treatments will relieve your trouble within a few days. If you have tried other treatments and medicines without results come to Henry Wong, Herb Specialist, 328½ Main Street, and get relief. WONG always studies to help you in any tough sick case you get.

### Henry Wong Herb Co.

328½ Main St. Salinas, Calif. Since 1930 in Same Location  
Special herb prepared for each ailment. Why suffer? In China 450,000,000 people have used herbs for over 4000 years.

Costs Less to Get Well

## L & L Display FIXTURES



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Shelf & Heavy Hardware • Sporting Goods • China & Glassware  
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### Wholesale Butchers

Telephone 4854 P.O. Box 47 Salinas, Calif.

### SHOP and SAVE at

Satisfaction guaranteed  
or your money back" SEARS

1002 South Main St. Phone 7555 Salinas

For Modern, High Quality  
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## LARSEN'S

Plumbing & Heating  
Appliances

Guaranteed, Quick Repairs  
On All Makes

PHONE 5574

652 E. ALISAL STREET



## Berry's

FLOWERS OF DISTINCTION

Phone 4881

WE GIVE GREEN STAMPS  
422 Salinas St., Salinas

## ECONOMY DRUG CO.



CUT RATE DRUGS  
Lowest Everyday Prices  
Two Stores:  
UNION DRIVE-IN MARKET  
BUILDING and  
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Easy Credit  
Terms

Expert Watch  
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260 Main Street  
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## With Local 890



### ATTENTION ALL SALINAS MEMBERS:

**IMPORTANT:** This is to remind you again of the change in meeting date and place and the penalties for non-attendance. Prior to April your union met regularly the first Thursday of the month at Carpenters Hall, 422 No. Main St., Salinas; by action of the membership the meeting date and place has been changed to the Moose Hall, 121-A Monterey St., Salinas, the second Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. The next meeting, therefore, will be on Tues., April 12, at the Moose Hall. We ask that you bring your pain up book or you may pay your dues prior to the meeting at Moose Hall. Business agents will be present to collect dues. Attendance records will be kept of all meetings in order that the union may carry out the mandate of the membership with regards to attendance. It will be necessary that all members in the Salinas area attend at least one meeting out of every quarter, which means during the months of April, May and June, the second quarter of the year, that you attend at least one meeting. Failure to attend will be subject to a \$2.50 fine; such fines to be paid before any dues.

\*\*\*

**RED CROSS**  
Remember the Red Cross; it is important that you make what contributions you can make through your union, very little funds have been collected to date.

\*\*\*

**RECREATION**  
Watch this column for the Kid-does show sponsored by your union which may take place on or about May 7 at the High School Auditorium and thereafter once or twice a month.

\*\*\*

**PATRONIZE UNION SERVICES; PAY YOUR DUES IN ORDER TO RECEIVE BENEFITS FROM THIS UNION.**

A good member is one that takes an active part in his union. Attend your meetings.

\*\*\*

### VETS NEWS

Veterans planning to go to summer school under the GI Bill should begin now to make necessary arrangements for Veterans Administration certificates of eligibility.

A veteran already in school under the GI Bill who intends to continue his education this summer in a different school should apply as soon as possible for a supplemental certificate of eligibility.

They must have supplemental certificates before they can be admitted to new schools or courses.

Application forms for the certificates may be obtained from the registrar's office at their school or from any VA office.

After a veteran has filled out the application, he should send it to the VA regional office having jurisdiction over the school he now is attending.

Veterans planning to attend summer school in the same institution in which they now are enrolled do not need a supplemental certificate to re-enroll.

**QUESTION:** I interrupted my training under the GI Bill and now would like to resume training at once. May I go back to my classes again?

**ANSWER:** Before you resume your interrupted training, you should get a supplemental certificate of eligibility from VA.

**QUESTION:** Are patients in Veterans Administration hospitals permitted unlimited participation in competitive sports?

**ANSWER:** Patients may participate only with the permission of the doctor in each case. An average of 43,000 veterans per month have been participating in various sports at hospitals and homes.

**QUESTION:** I wish to take on-the-job training. Where should I apply?

**ANSWER:** Apply at your nearest VA office. Take along a certified or photostatic copy of your discharge papers. If you are married or have one or more dependents and want subsistence allowances, take along your marriage certificate and other documents that will establish your dependency claim.

**QUESTION:** I have completed my on-the-job training course and have some entitlement left. I would like to take another course. May I enroll at another school?

**ANSWER:** You may use any remaining entitlement either for on-the-job training or for educational training with VA's prior approval.

### IMPORTANT! ALL MEMBERS IN THE SALINAS AREA:

That the next regular meeting which will be held at the Moose Hall on April 12th, we expect to have a speaker from our Statistical and Legal Department from San Francisco to address the membership on matters of importance.

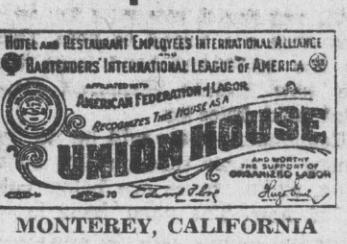
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### NEW HOSPITAL

Your union again wishes to remind you of the important election which will be held in Salinas district regarding the new hospital; no doubt you have read the daily papers, it is important that you vote yes on April 12th in order that construction can begin immediately on a fine up-to-date large community hospital which is so sorely needed. May I remind you again that additional monies will not be required to build this hospital, this

In sharpening knives and other cutting tools slowness is desirable. Rapid grinding or honing may generate enough heat to damage the metal.

## Local 483 Reports



MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

## Supreme Court Does It Again

On Monday, March 7, the Supreme Court trumped its own act of January 3 in again declaring that the states may outlaw union security even though federal law does not. They applied this decision not only to the Taft-Hartley Act but to the original Wagner Act. The moral to this decision is that Labor's League for Political Education must fight year in and year out for liberal state legislatures, and that federal lawmakers must see to it that the Taft-Hartley Repeal Bill specifically declares that federal law cannot be undermined by vicious state anti-union shop laws.

Despite repeated rumors that the employer groups who deal with us were going to open the contracts and demand a general reduction in wages, no such action has materialized. The deadline for opening of the contracts was passed on Saturday, April 2, 1949, with no moves to open presented by any individual employer or employers' association. Thus the contract which we have implemented for the past year will automatically be extended until May 31, 1950.

The contract committee, composed of 18 members in addition to the officers and Executive Board, met together and studied the contracts with great interest. Many proposed changes were discussed, but several factors other than our situation in the Monterey area had also to be considered.

The Monterey peninsula is just one section of a greater area known as the Monterey Bay area—the central coastal California area from the northern Santa Cruz County line to the southern line of Monterey County. In this area, there are four local unions of our International—the Santa Cruz and Watsonville local, the two locals in Salinas, and our own local in Monterey. At the present time, the contract enjoyed by our local in this area has the highest wage scale of any of the four locals in the Monterey Bay area. We are equal to or slightly over the scale for the Watsonville-Santa Cruz area, and we are substantially over the scale provided for in the contracts of Salinas Local 467. Both of these local unions decided to renew their existing contracts for another year, rather than negotiate new agreements which would provide for a higher wage scale.

You can readily see what sort of position this placed our local in.

We know that to a large extent the over-all conditions in the communities which comprise the Monterey Bay area are similar. Employers in Monterey, for example, are in direct competition with the operators in the resort city of Santa Cruz, and to a lesser extent, they must compete with owners in the Salinas area. A request on the part of Local 483 for increases in wages would certainly meet with unusually determined resistance from our local employers. There are other, more localized factors which were considered as well. Business volume during the past six months has dropped considerably below the higher levels which existed for the past five or six years. The third bad year in the fishing and cannery industry has materially hurt all industry in our area. And the very poor winter tourist season has had a particularly unhealthy effect upon our industry.

The above paragraphs sound much like an apology from your union officers for not re-opening our contracts. Such is not the case. It is felt that the membership should at all times be kept informed and advised of the reasons and conditions which motivate action of your local union. The rank and file members of our contract committee recommended to the membership, at the March meetings, that our present contract be continued for another year. This recommendation was concurred in by the membership assembled in regular meetings. And your union officers, in the proper performance of their duties, are bound by the decisions of the majority of the membership.

As a matter of plain fact, it is the considered opinion of your secretary that our wage scale is in need of general increases, and our conditions can certainly stand improvement. The cost of living for the average worker in the Monterey Peninsula area is higher than the average cost for central California. This is brought about chiefly by high real estate values and high rental charges. Workers in our industry, who are among the lowest paid in any industry, must compete with highly-skilled craftsmen in the building trades industries, with Army and Navy officers assigned locally for duty or schooling, and with seasonal tourists, for the rental units which the community offers. Since the supply does not meet the demand, it is a natural consequence that the rental units will be dearly bought. This serious situation cannot be adjusted in a short time. It may be several years before an average worker will be able to

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VALLEY LIQUORS  
A Large Selection of Popular Brands  
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SALINAS

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GOODFRIEND'S  
Telephone 5506  
Diamonds, Watches and  
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218 Main St., Salinas, Calif.

DO YOUR HOME A FAVOR ...  
Furnish It with the Best, from

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ALISAL FURNITURE & APPLIANCE CO.

"THE STORE OF BETTER VALUES"

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Phone 5586  
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Portraits and Commercial  
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Wall Paper - Painters' Supplies



## Smash-Labor Drive Opens In Capital

### Invasion of Big Money From East

(State Fed. Release) San Francisco.—A concerted offensive against the labor movement was launched in both houses of the State Legislature the final week in March.

Senator Hatfield (Madera, Merced), relying heavily on the Legislative Counsel Bureau and its extensive staff of 20 attorneys, instigated a determined effort last Friday to smash and obliterate the constitutional right of labor to bargain collectively through cooperative action.

The vehicle for Hatfield's blows directed against every union member in California is SB 1066, the "hot cargo" bill and the "darling" of the Merchants and Manufacturers Association, the Associated Farmers, the Waterfront Employers Association, and innumerable other fiercely anti-labor groups.

No quarter is being given as organized employers' groups, powerfully reinforced by eastern lobbyists from huge financial and insurance trusts, converge on Sacramento, intent on depriving trade unions of all their hard-won gains of recent years. Management representatives appear determined to deal severe setbacks to the progressive laws as a result of their defeat on the national scene.

Amendments to the "hot cargo" bill by Senator Hatfield were withdrawn in *toto* when Senator O'Gara (San Francisco) and Senator Judah (Santa Cruz), chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, charged Hatfield with attempting to force a vote without due consideration of the proposed changes. The withdrawal of the amendments by Senator Hatfield was to avoid further hearings in the committee and a possible adverse vote by that group.

### Two CIO Locals Bolt to AFL Bakers

New York City.—The much battered Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, CIO, lost two more locals to the American Federation of Labor.

One of the bolting locals represented 2000 workers in the factories of the Loft Candy Co. Henry Heide, Inc., and several smaller candy makers. The other was made up of 1200 bakers employed by the Gordon (Silvercup) Baking Co., Dugan Brothers and other bakers.

The two locals have affiliated with the Bakery and Confectionary Workers International Union, AFL, Leon Reich, counsel for the Loft Local, said the members felt that

### Charity Ads Dodge Taxes

Who pays for those expensive full-page newspaper advertisements in which the big corporations propagandize their economic and political views?

Likewise, such radio programs as the one in which the U.S. Steel Corporation put on a "big show" and made a pitch for the Red Cross—thus winning for the corporation a reputation for "charity." A glaring example was the recent Standard Steel Springs Co. "ads" urging bigger and better profits and smaller taxes.

How many of you know that Uncle Sam pays a large chunk of the cost of these propaganda "ads" and "good will" radio programs?

A "loophole" in the tax law permits corporations to call any kind of advertisement—printed or radio—a "business expense." As such, the cost can be deducted from the profits made by Uncle Sam.

The corporation income tax is 38 per cent. Hence, when a company expends \$10,000 on an "ad," Uncle Sam foots \$3,800 of the cost, because he loses that much in taxes. Until the excise profits tax was eliminated a couple of years ago, a \$10,000 "ad" cost a corporation only \$1,500 and cost Uncle Sam \$8,500 in taxes. That's why we saw more propaganda "ads" during and shortly after the war.

And when we say Uncle Sam pays, that means You and Me, Brother. Such "ads" mean corporations pay less taxes, and Mr. John Q. Citizen (You and Me) must pay more. Uncle Sam has to get the money somewhere.

British production expansion calls for an increase of coal output by nearly one quarter, raising electricity generating capacity by one-half and increasing the output of steel by nearly one-sixth. All this in the next four years.

The parent union was "disintegrating" and that their interests would be served most effectively by joining the AFL unit. A similar explanation was made by Patrick Rall, business manager of the bakery local.

Every square mile of the United States receives the heat equivalent of over 170,000 tons of coal from the sun during a growing season.

THE WAR ON DISEASE NEVER ENDS!—President William Green of the AFL was on hand to welcome leaders of a delegation of Swedish labor leaders visiting the U.S. under auspices of ECA to study U.S. industrial methods. Shown above, left to right, are Axel Strand, chairman of the Swedish Federation of Trade Unions, Green, and Eric Boheman, Swedish Ambassador to the United States.

### Carpenter ROUNDUP

Carpenters Union 925  
Salinas, California

#### TO CARPENTERS:

All registered voters in the Salinas area are urged to vote YES on the \$2,000,000 bond issue for the new Salinas Memorial Hospital next Tuesday.

Remember—there will be no increase in taxes through this bond issue, as the taxes are being collected now. The bond issue is to raise the money now to start the hospital at once, and the bonds will be paid off as the taxes are collected.

Any thinking person will vote in favor of the bonds. The need for a new hospital is obvious and a delay until the taxes are all collected, about 15 years, is needless. So—vote YES next Tuesday.

#### TO CARPENTERS:

New quarterly cards for the period of April, May and June are now at the union office. Any member not having his second quarter membership card should get it at once.

All members must have the new quarterly cards by April 15 in order to work on construction jobs.

No more men will be called to the Stone & Webster job for the P.G. & E. Co. at Moss Landing for at least two more months. Work is progressing rapidly and more than 100 carpenters are on the job now.

Stoltz, Inc., contractors, has started work on the new stores in the Valley Center business district on South Main Street. A single-unit store building is being erected.

An office building is to be erected on East Alisal Street near Solder Street by Garth V. Lacey, Salinas attorney. The new building will be adjacent to that being erected by Contractor F. Hampshire for the Salinas Savings & Loan Assn., and will add materially to the development of this vicinity.

Progress is reported by Business Agent George R. Harter on various projects in the Valley Center business tract. The Kress Store is going up rapidly and steel has arrived for the building which will house Leeds Shoe store and other stores.

A building which has been a warehouse for Sears and located between Lucky Stores and Woolworth's is to be prepared for occupancy shortly by the Salinas Commercial Co., which will feature plumbing and other supplies.

Remember to vote next Tuesday!

### Unity Plea Made By IAM Leader

New York (LPA)—If labor is to fulfill its obligation to the American people, it must remain in politics and give united support to liberal candidates and programs in all future elections, Al Hayes, vice-president of the International Association of Machinists, said last week.

He spoke here at a conference of the Trade Union Council of the Liberal Party of New York, where he and Representative Helen Gahagan Douglas (D., Calif.) shared the platform as principal speakers. "It took the Taft-Hartley law to shake us from our lethargy in politics," asserted Hayes. "Unless we remain active and alert in the days ahead, our November 2 victory will be an empty one, or at least a temporary one."

Hayes called upon unions to strengthen the flimsy political organizations which each formed before the last major election. He warned his audience that reaction in America is as strong and united as ever before in history.

"Today we find the special interests and the reactionary statesmen aligned closer than ever, trying to force their will against the will and welfare of the great majority of our people, notwithstanding the results of the November election."

Labor has as its duty and responsibility the task of making the plain people of this country the masters of their own destiny, he concluded.

### Drive Begun for Action On Labor Extension Bill

Washington—The National Committee for the Extension of Labor Education has started a drive here for passage of the labor extension service bill. The measure has the backing of the American Federation of Labor.

The bipartisan measure was reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare on February 25. It would furnish to wage earners information comparable to the extension work undertaken for farmers by the extension service of the Department of Agriculture.

Every square mile of the United States receives the heat equivalent of over 170,000 tons of coal from the sun during a growing season.

### Union Directory

#### ATTENTION!

Union Directory will be run in the issue of the second week of each month unless lack of space prohibits. All changes, corrections and additions must be received at the newspaper office by the 1st of the month. Clip this directory for reference during the current month.

#### MONTEREY

**BAKERS** 24—Headquarters at Labor Temple, 72 N. Second St., San Jose, Sec., and Main Office: Cecil Bradford, 801 N. 2nd St., San Jose, phone 62341.

**BARBERS** 895—Meets 3rd Wednesday at Bartenders Hall, 315 Alvarado St., at 8 p.m. Pres., L. L. Taylor, 575 Lighthouse, phone 8215; Bus. Agt., Arthur Thompson, 2-0720; Bus. Ass., B. C. Courtney, 2-0711; First Ave., Salinas, phone Salinas 6238; Exec., Sec., Earl A. Moorhead, Labor Temple, 1st floor, phone 6203; Alisal St., 3rd Wednesday, 2:30 p.m. Pres., James Macay, Seaside, phone 5565; Sec., and Bus. Ass., G. E. Rice, P. O. Box 354, Carmel, 1578-B, Office, 315 Alvarado; phone 6278.

**BARTENDERS** 545—Meets 1st Monday at 1 p.m. at Salinas Labor Temple, 117 Pajaro St., Sec.-Bus. Agt., Alisal St., 3rd Wednesday, 2:30 p.m. Pres., Virgil K. Knight, office 117 Pajaro St., phone 4633.

**BUTCHERS** 505 (Salinas Branch)—Meets 1st Mondays at Bartenders Hall, 8 p.m. Pres., Cecil Bradford, 801 N. 2nd St., San Jose, phone 62341.

**BARBERS** 895—Meets 3rd Wednesday at Labor Temple, 72 N. Second St., San Jose, and Main Office: Cecil Bradford, 801 N. 2nd St., San Jose, phone 62341.

**BARTENDERS** 462—Meets 3rd Wednesday at 117 Pajaro St., San Jose, phone 4633.

**CARPENTERS** 925—Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays at 1 p.m. at Labor Temple, 117 Pajaro St., San Jose, phone 4633.

**CARPENTERS** 1273 (King City)—Meets 1st Monday at 1 p.m. at King City Carpentry Hall, 205 Pajaro St., San Jose, phone 4633.

**CARPENTERS AUXILIARY** 373—Meets 1st Monday at 1 p.m. at Labor Temple, 117 Pajaro St., San Jose, phone 4633.

**CARPENTERS** 123—Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays at 8 p.m. at 315 Alvarado St., Pres., F. B. Hair, P. O. Box 6278, Watsonville, phone 6745; Sec., Mrs. M. E. Miller, 422 N. Main St., Salinas, phone 62341.

**CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR**—C. J. Haggerty, Secretary, and Legislative Representative, 402 Flood Bldg., 801 Market St., San Francisco, phone 6238.

**CARPENTERS** 1273—Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays at 1 p.m. at Labor Temple, 117 Pajaro St., San Jose, phone 4633.

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